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CHRONOLOGICAL SUMMARY:

Gilberto Nolasco ALVARADO Ugarte

12819

ALVARADO Ugarte, Gilberto Nolasco

In the following are cited those portions (including footnotes) of the SCHWEIKER Report pertaining to Gilberto ALVARADO. Comments relating to these portions are in roman characters.

At noon on November 25, "D", a Latin American, appeared at the American Embassy in Mexico City.³⁵ (FN: This incident is discussed in the Warren Report, pp. 308, 309; Cable from Mexico Station to CIA Headquarters, 11/25/63.) [Comment: The first cable in the file announcing ALVARADO's claim is MEXI-7067 (IN 68291), 26 November 1963.. ALVARADO at no time appeared at the American Embassy - some of our own reporting is in error, e.g., DIR 85089, 26 November 1963, a dissemination to FBI, State, and the White House, states: "On 26 November 1963, Gilberto ALVARADO, a professed Castroite Nicaraguan . . . came to the American Embassy in Mexico and made a statement about Lee OSWALD." According to ALVARADO's interrogation by Mexican authorities, he called the American Embassy on 25 November and "succeeded in speaking to a high official with whom he made an appointment for that same day at 5:30 p.m. near the Hotel Maria Isabel. Two individuals appeared for the appointment." According to a note in the Mexico Station file, signed by the Embassy Security Officer, A. C. PLAMBECK - dated 25 November - these two men were SNIGHT and PLAMBECK; both were Embassy security officers.] He told Embassy personnel that he was in the Cuban consulate on September 17 and saw Cubans who discussed assassination pay OSWALD a sum of money. [Comment: During his first meeting with Embassy officials, ALVARADO claimed he had been at the Cuban Consulate on the 18th of September, not the 17th. In fact, at no time, did he refer to the date 17 September. Later, during his interrogation in connection with the polygraph examination on 6 December 1963, ALVARADO revealed he was "unsure of the day of week allegedly saw OSWALD. Thinks that it was on Tuesday" which would have been 17 September. (MEXI-7289 (IN 75588), 7 December 1963).] He later repeated his story to the CIA Mexico Station

Chief. [Comment: At no time, at least there is no mention in the files, did ALVARADO repeat his story to the "CIA Mexico Station Chief". ALVARADO first told his story, as indicated above, to two officers from the Embassy Security Office. The next morning, he met with PLAMBECK from the Embassy Security Office, and a Station officer. During another meeting that evening (26 November), ALVARADO was interrogated by two officers from the Station. (Note for the Record, dated 25 November 1963, signed by PLAMBECK; Memorandum for Clark ANDERSON, Legal Attaché, dated 29 November 1963, from Winston M. SCOTT.)] The CIA and the Warren Commission later concluded that the story was a fabrication, but the Agency was clearly concerned with "D"'s story at the time.³⁶ (FN: "D" later admitted that the story about OSWALD had been fabricated. Cable from Mexico City to CIA Headquarters, 11/30/63. It had also been determined by the FBI that OSWALD was probably in New Orleans on September 17. Cable from CIA Headquarters to Mexico Station, 11/28/63.) [Comment: There were actually two cables, DIR 85258, 27 November 1963, and DIR 85653, 28 November 1963, which indicated OSWALD was in New Orleans on 17 and 19 September 1963.]

Later in that day [26 November 1963], the Mexico Station cabled Headquarters on the details of its interrogation of "D".³⁹ (FN: Cable from Mexico Station to CIA Headquarters, 11/26/63.) [MEXI-7069 (IN 68376), 26 November 1963.] It also reported other information from a sensitive and reliable source which tended to confirm "D"'s story that OSWALD may have been paid by the Cubans to assassinate President Kennedy. [Comment: It would appear from this statement, the authors of the report were referring to MEXI-7069 (IN 68376); however, this cable does not contain any remarks alluding to information which "tended to confirm 'D's' story". This information appears in MEXI-7072 (IN 68406), 26 November 1963, which contains Ambassador MANN's message to RUSK, McCONE, and HOOVER. MANN's statement reads as follows: "While we recognize lack of established reliability of Nicaraguan and danger of reaching

hasty conclusions, we suggest that DORTICOS' preoccupation with money angle of interrogation of Silvia DURAN tends to corroborate to some extent authenticity of the Nicaraguan's statement. Thus, there appears to be a strong possibility that a down payment was made to OSWALD in the Cuban Embassy there, presumably with promise of a subsequent payment after assassination." The Ambassador was reading somewhat more into the situation than was the case. The reference to DORTICOS - the Cuban President - relates to two telephone conversation between DORTICOS and HERNANDEZ, the Cuban Ambassador to Mexico, on 26 November 1963. The first conversation, which took place at 0924, was forwarded, in resume, to Headquarters on 26 November 1963 (MEXI-7068 IN). The second conversation, which took place at 1839, was forwarded, in resume, to Headquarters on 27 November 1963 (MEXI-7097 IN). In the first conversation DORTICOS asks (if) "the Federals of that country wanted Senora DURAN to say something, that they had some interest in, and had offered some money to the American?" To which HERNANDEZ answers that there was nothing about money. In the second conversation, DORTICOS is quoted as saying: "I was referring as to whether they had threatened her so that she would make a statement that the Consulate had given money to the man - that American." HERNANDEZ answered that "nothing absolutely was given her" [sic]. It would not appear from a close reading of these two conversations that they contain information "which tended to confirm 'D's' story . . .". This report has never been satisfactorily explained, although it was made available to the Warren Commission Staff. In any event, these reports certainly must have fueled suspicions of Cuban involvement in the assassination. Based on the evidence it reviewed, the Warren Commission later determined that "D"'s story was a fabrication. [Comment: This statement appears to be gratuitous - the Warren Commission did not ask about the ALVARADO case until 21 April 1964. On that date RANKIN addressed a letter to Richard HELMS in which he stated inter alia "We are aware, of course, from previous reports that the allegations made by ALVARADO were

thoroughly investigated by Central Intelligence Agency and Federal Bureau of Investigation representatives in Mexico City in liaison with the responsible Mexican law enforcement authorities. Reference is made to the discussion of these allegations in your memorandum dated January 31, 1964, at pages 11 - 14.

"Upon review of our complete file on this matter, we find that we lack full documentation of the investigation conducted of these allegations. It would be helpful if our records could be supplemented by a report from your Agency supplying more details regarding the investigation undertaken by your Agency and other concerned Agencies into this matter and your evaluation as to the truth of ALVARADO's assertions. In particular, it would be helpful if a report could be submitted by the expert who conducted the polygraph examination which emphasizes the specific conclusions which he made based on the responses by ALVARADO in answering key questions on this matter." (Letter to Richard HELMS, DDP, dated 21 April 1964, from J. Lee RANKIN, General Counsel.) The Agency responded on 1 June 1964. (Memorandum to J. Lee RANKIN, dated 1 June 1964, from Richard HELMS, DDP; Subject: Gilberto ALVARADO Ugarte.)]

The American Ambassador in Mexico later sent a cable [MEXI-7072 (IN 68406), 26 November 1963] to State Department through CIA channels. In that cable he gave his opinion that the Cubans were involved in the assassination, and recommended certain investigative steps which should be taken in Mexico.⁴⁰ (FN: Cable from Mexico Station to CIA Headquarters, 11/26/63.)

By November 27, the Mexico Station and CIA Headquarters were also beginning to question the accuracy of "D"s story. The cables between the Mexico Station and Headquarters indicate the possibility that the story was a fabrication. Nevertheless, on November 28, Headquarters cabled a reminder to the Mexico Station to "follow all leads". The Station was instructed to continue investigating the possibility of Cuban or Soviet involvement, because Headquarters had not excluded the possibility that other persons

were involved with OSWALD.⁴⁴ (FN: A cable from CIA Headquarters to Mexico Station, 11/28/63.) [DIR 85655, 28 November 1963]

Later that day [27 November] Headquarters learned that Mexican authorities planned to arrest Silvia DURAN again and warned the Station that the Mexicans must take responsibility for the arrest. After learning that the U.S. Ambassador was continuing to press for a vigorous investigation into Cuban involvement, Headquarters also warned the Station Chief that the Ambassador was pushing the case too hard and his proposals could lead to a "flap" with the Cubans.⁴⁶ (FN: A cable from CIA Headquarters to Mexico Station, 11/28/63.) [DIR 85655, 28 November 1963] Finally, the Agency concluded that "D"'s story was a fabrication and terminated its interest in him.⁴⁷ (FN: Ibid.)

On November 30, Director McCONE met with the President at 11 a.m. . . . While there was a discussion of the allegations made by "D" the memorandum records no action was required on the "OSWALD situation".⁴⁹ (FN: Memoandum for the Record by Director McCone, 12/2/63) [Comment: Memorandum not available in the file.]

On December 1, McCONE met with the President and BUNDY. McCONE's memorandum of the meeting indicates they again discussed "D"'s story. Later that day, Headquarters cabled the Mexico Station and stated that the White House had been told the story was a fabrication.

. . . . Later that day [2 December], the Mexico Station reported it had reason to doubt its earlier conclusion that "D" was fabricating. [Comment: The authors of the Report give no source for this statement. Moreover, they leave the reader in the air as to what was the outcome of further investigation to determine whether the earlier conclusion that ALAVARDO was fabricating was an accurate conclusion. The facts are as follows:

On 2 December, Captain WHEELOCK* saw ALAVARDO during the

* Captain Franklin Anthony WHEELOCK Garcia, chief of the Anti-Communist Section of the Nicaraguan Office of National Security,

On 2 December, Captain WHEELOCK saw ALVARADO during the afternoon for the first time. In a brief interview, which lasted only seven minutes, in the company of two Mexican officials, ALVARADO reverted to his previous story. He claimed he did see OSWALD and that he did call the Embassy to report. (Latter statement not supported by Embassy investigation.) ALVARADO went on to say that he told the Mexicans he was fabricating because he was "mentally mistreated", specifically because he was threatened that he would be hanged by the testicles. Actually he was not physically mistreated. WHEELOCK said he was unable to come to any definite conclusion as to ALVARADO's veracity; however, he would be able to do so once he returned to Managua and had a chance to complete the interrogation. (MEXI-7023 IN 71702, 2 December 1963)

On 3 December 1963, Headquarters tells the Mexico Station that although Headquarters is confident that ALVARADO is a fabricator and that his retraction of his confession is false, it has been decided that he should be placed on the polygraph. Headquarters asks that the Station arrange to have ALVARADO released to CIA custody for several days and ask WHEELOCK to remain in Mexico to assist.

A polygraph operator from the Office of Security will arrive on 4 December. He will be incharge of the polygraph interview, but will be assisted by Clark ANDERSON (Legal Attache), who has been selected as an interpreter. The FBI will notify ANDERSON of this. (DIR 86563, 3 December 1963)

* Captain Franklin Anthony WHEELOCK Garcia, Chief of the Anti-Communist Section of the Nicaraguan Office of National Security, arrived in Mexico City on 29 November 1963. WHEELOCK went to Mexico in response to Mexico Station's request for assistance in interrogating ALVARADO. For further details see accompanying chronological summary on Gilberto ALVARADO.

ECHEVARRIA, the Acting Minister of Gobernacion, agreed to permit CIA to "borrow" ALVARADO. The plan was to pick up ALVARADO on 5 December and return him that evening. (MEXI-7229 IN 72877, 3 December 1963) ALVARADO was picked up as planned and underwent preliminary questioning on 5 December. The next day he underwent a polygraph interview. The results of this interview indicated that ALVARADO was fabricating his story. Interrogation revealed that he was unsure as to the exact day of the week he allegedly saw OSWALD. He thought it was on a Tuesday which would have been the 17th of September. When ALVARADO was shown a series of photographs during the testing, deception patterns became evident. When he was confronted with this he answered that he had the utmost confidence in the polygraph and that it must be correct. The interrogation was concluded with ALVARADO admitting he must have made an "honest mistake" in relating the original story in his identification of OSWALD. (MEXI-7289 IN 75588, 7 December)

Following the receipt of the results of the above interview with ALVARADO, Headquarters disseminated the results to the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

"The re-interrogation of Gilberto ALVARADO, Nicaraguan informant who claimed to have seen Lee OSWALD receive money to assassinate Kennedy, has been concluded. Our Mexico City Station advises us that ALVARADO admitted he must have been mistaken in saying that he saw OSWALD in the Cuban Embassy. Also, he was uncertain of the date on which he might have seen someone like OSWALD and thought it must have been on a Tuesday, which would have made it 17 September 1963. Although the final report of the polygraph interview is not yet available, the preliminary finding is that ALVARADO evidenced deception reactions when talking about OSWALD.

"It is expected that ALVARADO will be deported to Nicaragua on 9 December 1963.

"A representative of your Bureau participated in the interrogation of ALVARADO."

(DIR 87667, 7 December 1963)

Except for forwarding to the Warren Commission various reported material on ALVARADO, the Agency had completed its investigation of the allegation that the Cuban Consulate had given

OSWALD six thousand five hundred dollars to assassinate an unnamed target.